OFFIC... 7 - JUL 1959 KOVILPATTI RU... ...NG CENTRE

# OUR FRIEND

He likes to work and work all day
He is full, glad and free :
He loves to sweat for others gay
His heart from evils free.

His blood is shed for others' gain
He lives in strain and pain :
He loses his health for others wealth
He is devoid of wealth.

He learns to live for the world
His life is poor and cold :
He knows no crime—no fraud at all
He is a friend of all.

*K. Y. RATNAM*
Rayaghada.

No 27/71

मज़दूर ग्राम सेवक मंज़िल

# GRAM SEVAK

Vaisakha-Jaistha 1881

Vol. 5 MAY 1959 No. 10

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# OFFICIALS AND NON-OFFICIALS

Of all our various activities in India, probably the most important activity—and potentially the one which will bring the greatest results—is the Community Development movement ; because here you are working with the basic material in the country—that is, human beings—and getting them out of various ruts in which they have been, and developing certain mental and bodily attitudes—a certain dynamism—in addition to particular crafts and training that you might give them, whether in agriculture or in other matters.

That is basic because in the ultimate analysis, a country's development or position is due to, and can be measured by the quality of its people. Everything else is secondary; money and this and that is completely secondary. Primarily it is the quality of the people.

You are not working to produce geniuses, i.e., the top-ranking people but you are working to produce that huge reservoir of humanity in India, out of which come the higher grades ; and we want that reservoir to have the opportunity. It is of the most vital importance.

You are not dealing directly with, let us say, industrial or technical training. Other people do that. But technical and industrial training depends, to a tremendous deal, on the innate ability of Indian craftsmen. During the last few years, specially during World War II, circumstances forced the British Government to develop certain Indian industries.

(*Continued on page 3*)

# *OVERWORKED !*

AN EXTENSION WORKER DOES MUCH PAPER WORK
WAITS UPON OFFICIALS
TAKES AROUND VISITING DIGNITARIES
AND FEELS OVERWORKED BEFORE HAVING DONE ANY EXTENSION WORK

# LETTERS

## *Loan Recovery*

Sir,

Since the beginning of the Community Development Programme, a large number of our farmers have been getting agricultural loans from the Government. Now their recovery has become a problem. Most of the farmers, have not been able to pay back the loans and thus a considerable amount of money has remained blocked. Recently the Bihar Government started a loan-recovery drive. They decided to forego the interest charged and encouraged the farmers to pay back the principal. This minor concession did the trick. Out of a total amount of Rs. 13 crores due from seven lakh peasants, nearly Rs. 5 crores were recovered within three months. Here is a lesson for the other States.

Patna — Yours, etc.
10-4-59 — *Ramnarayan*

## *Whose Servant?*

Sir,

When I visited a village recently I found that the Sarpanch was freely ordering about one of his servants. I therefore, took him to be something of a personal assistant to him as the Sarpanch was a very well-to-do person in the village. At the time of leaving the village, I asked the personal assistant his exact duties as he seemed to be quite well-versed in all the agricultural operations. To my surprise, he declared himself to be the Gram Sevak in charge of this village along with five others. I really wonder if a Gram Sevak should efface himself so completely that he should be mistaken for a servant of the Sarpanch. Of course he is meant to be the servant of the village, as his name would indicate.

At the other extreme, my recent experience in South India is still fresh in my mind. There I found the Gram Sevaks wanting to be "ground level officers" and resenting furiously any misunderstanding about their functions. Some of them would never even help a B.D.O. with a glass of water in times of emergency on the ground that it was not one of their functions.

Where is the ideal Gram Sevak—who presumably reads every item of your magazine?

Delhi — Yours etc.
10-4-59 — *Ramanathan*

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## OFFICIALS AND NON-OFFICIALS

(*Continued from page* 1)

It is of vital importance, and it has to be looked at very much with a mind that is not firmly fixed—I mean to say, your minds and our minds—if some kind of patent remedy is to be applied. The patent remedy approach is all wrong. And the patent remedy approach comes in often, while copying something that you have read; that this has been done, or this ought to be done. Professors are very good, but professors are apt to apply patent remedies and an academic way of thinking. We cannot do without an academic way of thinking; I am not decrying it. But there is that tendency, for the academician, to think in an intellectual way—sometimes divorced from the main currents of life, which is not good enough.

So, it is that approach, and I am very glad that here you are trying to discuss these matters, first, between the official group and non-officials—MLAs—and, secondly, with men who have had personal contacts with this movement and know something about it—because it is only in this way that is the frank way, that you can uncover your own difficulties or failings, because this business of the official and non-official—we go on using these phrases which are really peculiar and derived from British times; the real definition should be a serviceman and non-serviceman; that is a clear distinction—this business of the official and non-official is ridiculous; it is the serviceman and the non-serviceman. Actually, it was the old days—when the serviceman, although an official, was the covering power, and the others were different—that these phrases could be used.—(*Based on a talk given to those attending the fifth orientation course at the Central Institute of Study and Research on Community Development at Mussoorie on April 24, 1959*).

# MEDBUNDI IN RAJASTHAN

RAJASTHAN'S programme of Medbundi, implemented largely on the basis of self-help, has brought about a minor agricultural revolution in the State. Through it new areas have been brought under cultivation, the soil fertility increased through conservation of moisture, and the output of foodgrains stepped up.

Medbundi and contour bounding have the same purpose, viz., conservation of soil and moisture, through breaking the velocity of water in areas of scanty rainfall and ensuring the maximum utilization of water for the eventual benefit of the crop as well as a check against loss of soil. Medbundi, however, is slightly different from contour bunding. It consists of smaller bunds, three to four feet high, within the fields, across the flow of water. The bunds are erected at varying distances, so as to ensure even distribution of water in the fields. In fields which have no gradient, areas of between 1 and 1½ acres at times have only one Med around, in other fields with better gradient, however, bunds at shorter distances are put up, so that there is not more than one per cent slope in each field thus separated.

The importance of Medbundi to agriculture in Rajasthan was realized in 1956-57 when this programme was launched in a few selected Blocks in the hilly and desert areas as an experimental measure. An area of 10,000 acres was brought under Medbundi, enabling farmers in places like Jaisalmer to raise crops like wheat and gram and increasing the production of wheat from two maunds per acre to as much as six maunds.

### RABI CAMPAIGN

Encouraged by the results obtained from these selected Blocks, an extensive programme of Medbundi was launched to help the Rabi campaign of 1958. The target originally fixed was three lakh acres. Within a month, however, it was realized that the response of the farmers was tremendous and that this target could be raised to five lakh acres.

The total area reported to have been covered under the Medbund programme in 1958 came to 6.46 lakh acres. But a 17-member Evaluation Committee, appointed by the Rajasthan Government to assess the progress of Medbundi work, concurrently with the drive, scaled down the figure of achievement to 4.5 lakh acres—after excluding the figures for Dolbundi and ineffective Medbundi.

The Committee pointed out that the farmers had realized that had the bunds not been put up on lands newly brought under cultivation, it would not have been possible to raise the Rabi crop.

On fields which were already under cultivation Medbundi resulted, at places, in 50 per cent increase in production, and a saving of at least one irrigation during the Rabi season. The bunds also provided a sound basis for building up the fertility of land and for introducing the follow-up dry-farming measures.

### UTILITY

The Medbundi drive, according to the Evaluation Committee, did develop a desire among the farmers, as

well as their organisations and workers in the field, to understand the utility of this programme and also a willingness on the part of the people to translate it into action. About twenty per cent of the Panchayats and five per cent of the Co-operatives, the Committee said, had taken very keen interest in organising the Medbundi drive in their areas.

Although the original target of three lakh acres was subsequently increased and the target achieved totalled more than 4.5 lakh acres, the Rajasthan Government felt that necessary technical knowledge and advice provided to the Extension Officers and V.L.W.s for the Rabi crop in 1958 could not travel down to the ground level, and the workers at the village level were left to their own understanding and initiative in carrying out the programme.

**TRAINING PROGRAMME**

The planning of the programme has already been taken up and targets for each Block laid down. For purposes of imparting training the entire State has been divided into six zones. Two-day training camps have already been held, or are being held, in each of the six zones, for District Agricultural Officers, the Block Development Officers, the Agricultural Extension Officers and the Tehsildars with the help of the Soil Conservation Officer.

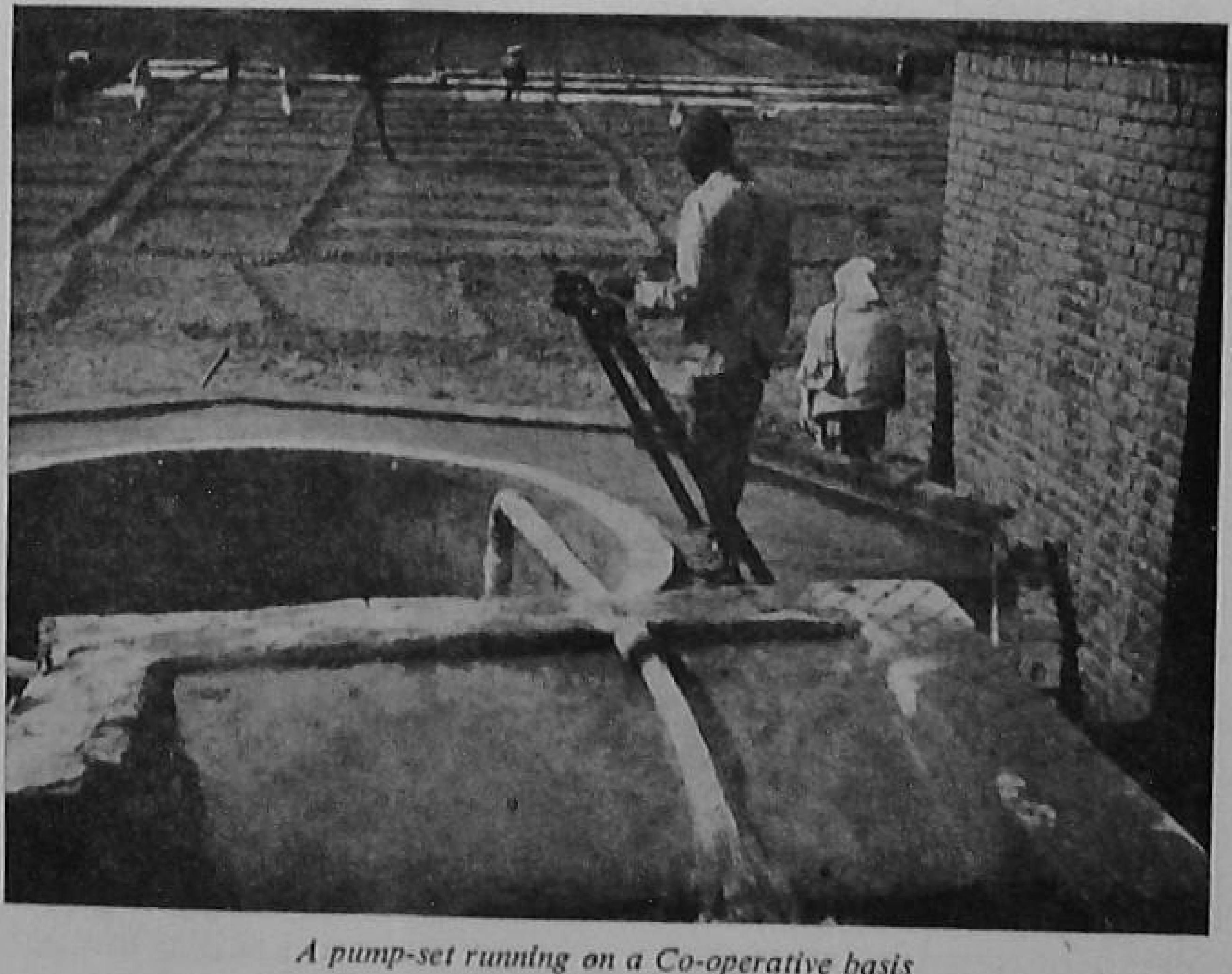
The District Agricultural Officers in turn are to arrange two camps for the training of Village Level Workers, Extension Officers and Revenue Inspectors of each district, and, as the last link in the chain each Block is to hold five camps of three days' duration in May and June, one of the three days of the training camps being exclusively reserved for giving training in Medbundi.

Every Vikas Mandal in due course is to call a special meeting in the village to discuss and fix up the Medbundi target for itself. The targets of the various villages are to be approved by the panchayats and sent to the Block Development Officers for consolidation after final scrutiny and approval by the Block Development Committee.

Each Panchayat, it has been provided, may nominate a sub-committee to guide the Medbundi work within its jurisdiction. The Block Development Committee similarly may appoint a sub-committee to guide and supervise this work.

**PRIZE SCHEME**

Non-officials, as well as officials, are to be encouraged to adopt villages for intensive Medbundi work. Such non-officials, as well as officials, will be eligible for the award of prizes on the basis of achievement from April 1, 1959 to September 30, 1959. Prizes to be awarded include the Governor's shield for the best Block in the State, prizes of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 for the second and third best Blocks in the State, a cup worth Rs. 100 for the best Block in each division and a cash prize of Rs. 250 for the best village in each Block. The best non-official and official workers in each Blocks are to be given a cash prize of Rs. 100 each in the shape of National Savings Certificates.



*A pump-set running on a Co-operative basis*

*Village leaders raising their hands in support of the oaths administered at the end of the Camp.*

*AS OTHERS SEE US*

# THE GRAM SEVAK

THE BROAD objectives of the Community Development programme and of improving agricultural technology, as they come down from the many departments and organizations at the Centre, State, district and block levels, finally come to central focus on the V.L.W. to unify, co-ordinate and integrate everything into a programme for the villager. Even if he had the capacity to do the job, time would not permit him to do all the things expected. As a result, he had to choose among many possibilities.

It is only natural for him, therefore, to respond to those requests which are specific and recognizable, especially when his recognition and rewards appear to be based on his response to these requests. Thus, he may give only secondary attention to strengthening the resources and productive capacity of the cultivator.

The V.L.W.'s frustrations are many: too many items of work, too large an area to cover, treatment as an inferior, low pay, few possibilities for promotion, lack of quarters, supplies and equipment, and little or no assistance or guidance in planning and organizing his programme, etc. It is no wonder that there is a wide gap between what he is expected to do and what, in fact, he actually gets done.

Perhaps too much emphasis is being placed on his being a multipurpose worker, in the sense of his having competence and expertise in technical agriculture, road construction, housing, co-operatives, etc. Although, he will acquire several skills, through both training and experience, his greatest opportunity lies in putting people who want to help themselves in touch with appropriate aid. This should become his specialized skill. He should aid in identifying their needs, fostering an awareness of needs, organizing people in relation to available appropriate aid. By the nature of his intimate contact and acquaintance with village people, he has the opportunity of effecting change toward both immediate and long-range goals. It is urgent that all superior officers recognize this as the V.L.W.'s basic task, and that the V.L.W.'s role be construed as one of service to the village rather than errand boy for those above him.

In the opinion of the Team, corroborated by Indian officials, many V.L.W.s now possess greater aptitude and skill than other officers in working with people at the village level. Given the training in this task, he can become even more effective. To fulfil this role adequately necessitates a broad understanding of village problems, particularly in agriculture. Over-time he will need more and higher and constant upgrading. But the V.L.W. will still need the support and guidance of adequate and competent specialists at the block level.

*(From the "Report on India's Food Crisis and Steps to meet it" by the Agricultural Production Team sponsored by the Ford Foundation.)*.

# TRAINING OF NON-OFFICIALS

A SCHEME for a comprehensive programme of orientation is being drawn up by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation to impart training to non-official members of Block Development Committees.

The scheme aims at properly equipping the non-officials associated with the Community Development programme at the Block level with the necessary knowledge and information, so as to enable them to play their role fully and effectively in the planning and implementation of the development programmes relating to their respective Block areas.

The Block Development Committees at present are in effect responsible for the development of the Block areas and its people. These Committees consist of representatives of the two basic institutions at the village level—*i.e.*, panchayats and co-operatives—leading farmers and social workers, legislators and those who could advise in the drawing up of programmes, in addition to Government officials.

## TRAINING

The training to be imparted to non-official members of the Block Development Committees is to be divided into two parts: (1) Orientation training; and (2) Subject-matter training.

The orientation training, to be imparted to batches of about 50 trainees, in camps of about a week's duration, would enable the members to understand the approach, attitudes and the role of members, their rights and duties. It would also explain the objectives and philosophy of the Community Development programme and the day-to-day mechanics of its working. The training programme would include field visits to nearby institutions, or leading individuals and government officers, with a view to studying the progress of work done there.

### *SOME SUGGESTIONS !*

*Some of the reactions from the States to the proposed programme of training of non-official members of Block Development Committees are as follows :*

(1) *It is difficult to get the right type of persons to act as trainers. In view of the shortage of competent trainers, organisation of peripatetic training teams may be necessary.*

(2) *Non-official institutions have their own established traditions and they will not carry out the programme exactly on the lines chalked out by the Government. Accordingly, the functioning of both the institutional and peripatetic types of training is to be preferred.*

(3) *To avoid wastage, we may start the training programme after the elected Panchayat Samitis, under the new Act, have been constituted.*

(4) *We may exclude M.L.As and M.Ps from this training programme. The training should be provided in camps of a week's duration associating non-official trainers as far as possible. Separate training camps for M.L.As and M.Ps may be held.*

(5) *In the absence of non-official institutions, we may utilise the Extension Training Centres for this programme.*

The subject-matter training is to be a continuous process, including talks and discussions by subject-matter specialists at the meeting of the Block Development Committees.

The provisional syllabus for the training of non-official members of Block Development Committees was drawn up by a special committee associated with the Informal Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament, and composed of a few members of Parliament, with Shri Balwantrai Mehta as Chairman.

## VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

The arrangements for the training programme for non-official members of Block Development Committee are to be made largely by non-official voluntary agencies—educational, social service and others, wherever practicable—which can provide the requisite facilities and which are considered suitable to undertake the work. It is, however, to be ensured that facilities available with an institution in the matter of accommodation for trainees, classroom lectures, equipment, quality of teaching personnel, etc., are fully utilized.

The training envisaged under the scheme is to be imparted in a suitable atmosphere amidst rural surroundings. There is to be no rigidity about the pattern of the agency conducting the training, or of location of centres and selection of trainers.

## SCOPE

The total number of non-official members of the Block Development Committees all over the country at present is estimated at about 60,000 to 70,000. According to the provisional programme drawn up, all these non-official members are to be given orientation training before the end of the Second Five Year Plan. A start is to be made with one training centre per Revenue Commissioners' Division, the centre holding eight to ten camps in a year in two or three spells of six to eight weeks each.

The B.D.C.s ordinarily meet once every month. If, however, there is more work, they meet oftener. Some States have fixed dates every month for the meetings of the Block Development Committees and they make an effort to hold the meetings when the State and Central legislatures are not in session. This enables the Block Development Committees to have the benefit of fuller association by legislators.

Every member, whether official or non-official, has a right to suggest items for inclusion in the agenda of any meeting. The Block Development Officer, who works as the Secretary of the Block Development Committee, circulates the agenda in advance, to enable every member to come prepared. The various items on the agenda are discussed fully and the decisions of the Committee are recorded and implemented.

*Gram Sahayaks relaxing after lunch*

*Workers at the Najafgarh Centre studying the design of a cheap and simple latrine*

# VILLAGE HEALTH

ONE OF THE largest public health problems in India is that of intestinal infections. The deaths caused by such infections every year are about twenty lakhs and the number of persons taken ill nearly five crores. These diseases are faecal borne and the way to control them is proper disposal of faeces and protection of drinking water supply. How to accomplish proper disposal of faeces in villages is the main purpose of the Research-cum-Action Programme launched by the Government of India.

In rural India proper disposal is possible only by placing the faeces in deep enough hole in the ground. However, attempts at promotion of latrines have been unsuccessful in the past due to the difficult nature of the problem which involves change of a deeply-rooted habit by each individual. In order to study and try out action programmes in village sanitation with emphasis on finding methods to gain acceptance of latrines, the Project was established at three Health Centres; one at Poonamallee near Madras, another at Singur near Calcutta and the third at Najafgarh near Delhi.

These three Health Centres had been running for many years for demonstration and field training. Also located on the premises for the past five years are the Orientation Training Centres for health personnel from rural areas. Orientation Training Centre and Research-*cum*-Action Project are now carried on side by side and are of mutual benefit in their programmes.

The purposes of the Research-*cum*-Action - Rroject—which began in September 1956 and will continue until September 1960—briefly are: first, what it takes in engineering design, in Sociological studies and in health education based on such studies, to get Indian villagers to understand the need for latrines, to want them enough to buy them and to use them, and secondly, what recommendations should be made regarding personnel to carry out latrine programmes—what kind of personnel, how trained and what administrative pattern.

The work of Project at the three Centres is coordinated by the Central Health Ministry and a Central team of foreign consultants. There are certain features in common at the three Project Centres especially those related to measuring results. In terms of methods of approach, however, each Centre is trying things differently.

Under the programme, as many ways as can be found to measure attitudes, knowledge, use, and anything else which can be measured, will be done, as far as possible. However, the emphasis is not so much on scientific sociological investigations as it is on how a programme can be developed for bringing about the adoption by villagers of latrines, and, more important in their using them.

# Training for Co-operators

THERE ARE at present 8 Block Level Cooperative Officers' Training Centres where the officers in N.E.S. and C.D. Blocks are given training in cooperation. These centres are located at Gopalpur-on-Sea, Hyderabad, Kotah, Faizabad, Bhavnagar, Dhuri, Tirupati and Kalyani. The duration of the course is 11 months except at Tirupati where it is of 3½ months only. The target is to train 4,000 officers during the Plan period. So far about 1,800 officers have been given training in these Institutes.

The Working Group, which went into the question of administrative and organisational arrangements required for implementing the Resolution of the National Development Council, on Cooperative Policy adopted on the 9th November, 1958, had considered the question of coordination between Community Development and Cooperative Programmes in the context of organisation of Service Cooperatives and suggested as under :—

(a) Cooperative Extension Officers are given training for a period extending over 11 months. Arrangements to send them to refresher courses after every two or three years in order to bring their knowledge of Cooperation upto date, should be made. In addition it will be useful if every extension officer particularly agricultural extension officer is also given training for a period of about one month.

(b) All village level workers should undergo a course of training in cooperation for a period of 3 months. The training should be given at the extension training centres.

(c) All Village Level Workers who have received some kind of training in Cooperation should periodically attend refresher courses lasting for about a month. Such refresher courses should be held throughout the year so that village level workers are not only trained once but their knowledge is kept upto date.

When these recommendations implemented they will provide centres for training of workers of N.E.S. and C.D. Blocks in the principles of cooperation including that of the work of Service Cooperative Societies.

Cooperative Farming is included in the general course on Cooperation. The importance of a special course in the subject flows from the fact that cooperative farming calls for a large number of managerial and administrative workers and technical specialists who are not so readily available in the country. In this connection, the Standing Committee of the National Development Council at its meeting in September, 1957, has recommended that three regional centres for training of Additional Cooperative Block Officers on Cooperation of the rank of Inspectors on Cooperative Farming, be set up.

A scheme is under consideration of the Government for imparting special training in Cooperative Farming for officials and non-officials in the field.

## BEST VILLAGES

*To provide incentive to the villagers to synchronize their efforts for improving the villagers with those of Gram Sevaks, one prize of Rs. 5,000 at the national level, 15 prizes of Rs. 1,000 at the State level and 330 prizes of Rs. 250 at the district level are being awarded to the best village in the circle of each Gram Sevak adjudged best at the national, State and district levels. For the selection of the best village in a Gram Sevak's circle of ten villages, the criteria have been the same as in the case of the Gram Sevaks. This scheme of prize competition for best villages is supplementary to the prize competition scheme for Gram Sevaks. The prize money for the best villages in the circles of Gram Sevaks who have won the prizes at different levels is being given to the Panchayat of the village, to be utilized for furthering the common programme of the village, and for increasing agricultural production. For villages which do not have a Panchayat, the money is being made available in the Vikas Mandals.*

## MILK-VENDOR BECOMES A SOCIAL WORKER

FROM A milk-vendor to a successful Gram Sevak is a far cry. But that's what happened in the life of Shri Om Prakash Sharma, recently adjudged as best Gram Sevak of Delhi Union Territories.

Born of a poor family, Sharma hails from the village Bakhtawar Pur, only 14 miles from Delhi. His early life was one of hard struggle against poverty. When he was ten, his father became disabled from an attack of paralysis. And so the heavy responsibility of maintaining the family fell upon the shoulders of the son. Sharma took up the challenge and started life as a milk-vendor. In the mornings and evenings he used to collect milk from the villages for selling it in the city and earned a reasonable commission. During the day he used to attend the school. And he always stood first in the class.

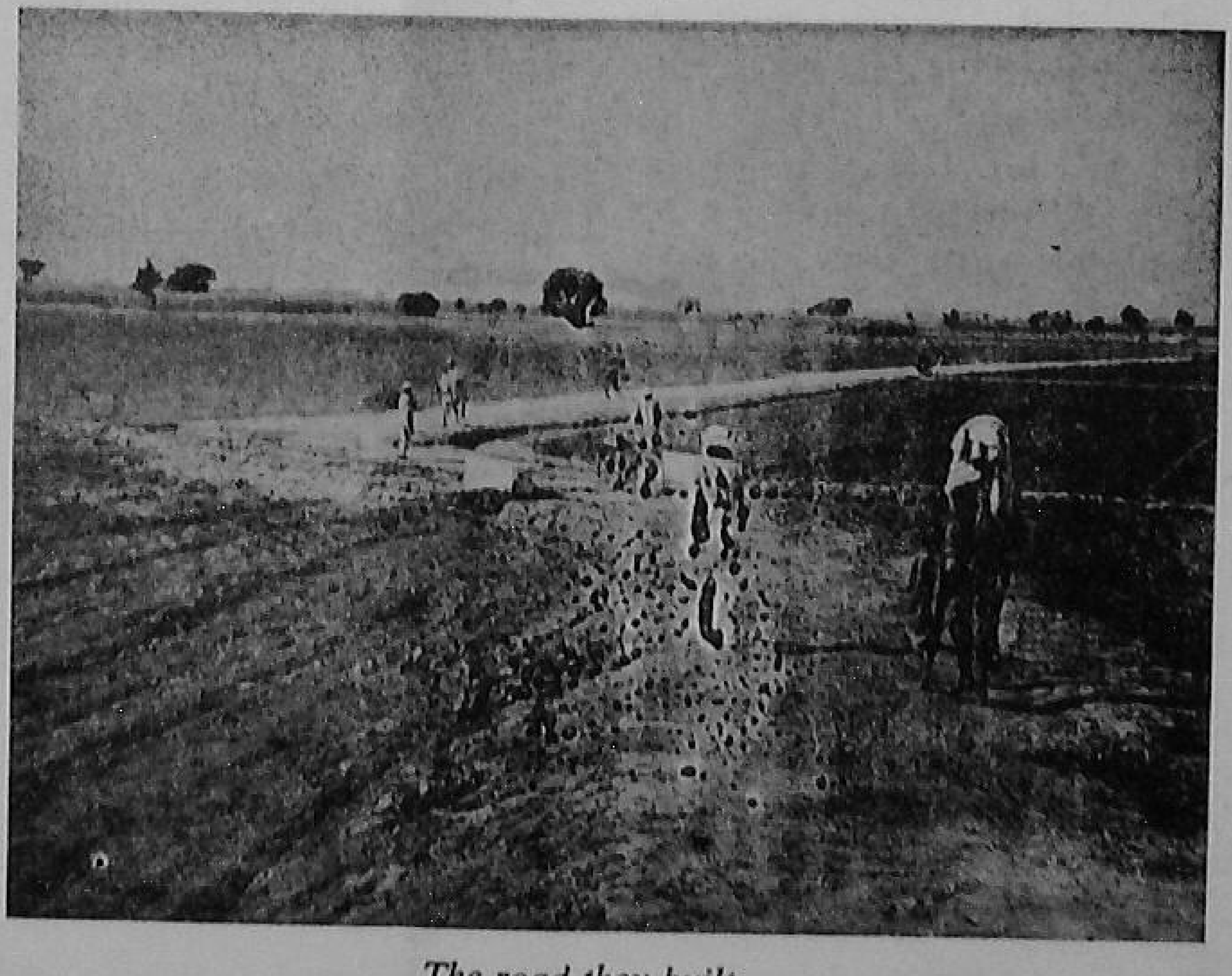
In 1952, immediately after he had reached the Matriculation target, he was selected as the honorary V.L.W. in the Alipur C.D. Block. He received training in Community Development work first at Janta College, Alipur and then at Extension Training Centre at Nilokheri. The training over, his first posting was to the village Mukhmelpur, then notorious for factions and group rivalries. Sharma changed these rivalries into healthy competitions. Thereafter he was transferred to Najafgarh Block with headquarters at the village Nangloi. Here also his amiable nature, dilligence and industry helped to give the village a new look.

Finally he was posted to his present circle Najafgarh. This village has now been adjudged the best village in the Union Territories.

Om Prakash believes in mixing with the villagers freely. According to him personal contacts followed by group discussions are most paying. Mass meetings are not very helpful.

Sharma says: "It is easier to work in the animal-infested jungles than to work in villages riddled with vested interests." In his own way he has found an answer to the problem. His faith in the basic goodness of the village folk has helped him a great deal. He had always kept himself free from village factions, but at the same time had endeavoured to exploit the good points of each one of them and thus encouraged them to contribute to the development work.

During the first few years of his Gram Sevakship, he was keen on physical targets. But later on as he gained experience, his emphasis shifted to agricultural production, Cooperatives and cottage industries. The farmers in his circle have become fertilizer-conscious as well as of Cooperative-minded.



*The road they built.*

# PROGRAMME PATTERN

### VUTUKURU IN ANDHRA

VUTUKURU village in Tiruvuru Block of Krishna district has been adjudged the best village in Andhra Pradesh for 1958-59 for implementing the Community Development programme. A cash award of Rs. 1,000 will be given to the village to be utilised for increasing agricultural production. Shri N. Venkateswarlu, who was earlier adjudged the best village level worker, was awarded a special prize in the competition for the best village level worker.

### NEW AWARDS

THE GOVERNMENT of India has sanctioned a scheme for the award of community prizes at district and State levels, as an incentive for increasing agricultural production in the country. To start with, the scheme will be confined to nine States, including Bombay, where the 'rabi' production campaign has been launched during the current year.

Under the scheme, those districts or States where the total production of foodgrains exceeds by 15 per cent or more over the average production of the last three years will qualify for a community award. Each district qualifying for the award will receive Rs. 10,000 and each State Rs. 50,000. Besides, the highest producing district in each State would be awarded a "Rajya Kalash", while the State achieving the highest percentage of increase in production in the country will be awarded an "All-India Rashtra Kalash".

### FISHERIES

THE UNION Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation has requested the State Governments to instruct the extension agency at the Block level to advise fishermen to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Fisheries Extension Units, set up by the Government of India.

Nine units have been set up in various States so far by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to function as a liaison between the research laboratories, on the one hand and the Development Departments, fishermen and fish farmers, on the other.

These units are located at Mandapam Camp (Madras), Calcutta, Dighipukhuri (Assam), Allahabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Karnal, Mithapur (Bihar) and Bhopal.

Facilities provided by the units include demonstrations of improved methods of fishing, fish farming and processing, charts, photographs and aquaria in the Information Centres in Block areas, and audio-visual talks at seminars, exhibitions and fairs organised by the Block staff. The units also impart training to selected Block staff.

### FERTILISERS

THE UNION Ministry of Community Development and

Cooperation has requested the State Governments to ask the block staff to ensure full utilisation of the soil testing services under which appropriate advice regarding the use of fertilisers is given free of cost.

In view of the short supplies of ammonium sulphate, the block staff is to be requested to popularise the use of other chemical fertilisers and indigenous organic manures, such as bone-meal, leather and hoof meal etc., through demonstrations and through the training imparted to farm leaders.

It has been impressed on the State Governments that to observe the changes taking place as a result of intensive cultivation and manuring it would be useful to test the soil of the same field after every three or four years.

Over 20 soil testing laboratories have been set up in various parts of the country to evaluate soil productivity and help farmers to plan the use of fertilisers based on soil tests and crop responses.

### RAJASTHAN'S DECISION

In future only cooperative societies of landless persons will be allotted unoccupied Government lands for joint farming. This decision has been taken by the Rajasthan Government in pursuance of the Nagpur Congress resolution on land reforms.

A census of landless persons is being undertaken and till it is completed and new rules are finalized all allotment of unoccupied Government lands under the existing rules has been stopped, the announcement added. Till now such lands were allotted to landless persons free of charge under the Rajasthan Land Revenue (Allotment of Land for Agricultural Purposes) Rules. The Government has further decided that in gramdan villages all unoccupied Government-owned agricultural land will vest in the gram sabhas to be constituted according to the Gramdan Bill when it becomes an Act.

### ADIVASIS

The three-year-old debts of Adivasis are being written off by States and Union Territories at the instance of the Centre. Assistance is also being given in the clearance of short-period debts after allowing interest at not more than six per cent.

The Second Plan allocation for the country's backward classes is Rs. 91 crores, more than double the provision for the First Plan. The major items of expenditure are: education—Rs. 23.76 crores; medical and public health, housing, communications — over Rs. 8 crores each; and cottage industries—Rs. 5.5 crores.

### PRIMARY COOPS

A little less than half of India's 5½ lakh villages have already been covered by primary agricultural cooperatives. Although information from Kerala is still awaited, preliminary reports from other States indicate that the number of such societies was 1,65,508 at the end of 1957-58. Membership of primary cooperatives crossed the ten million mark during that period and stood at 1,01,67,730. In the previous year, the membership was 91,16,846.

*The new look : paved village street in the Punjab.*

# THE COMMON SALT

COMMON SALT is perhaps the commodity best known to man, and certainly the one associated with most legends and superstitions. Its importance for physiological development has been recognised for ages, giving rise to such customs as the fortifying of friendship over salt, and such phrases as "being worthy of one's salt". In history, salt has sparked revolution. In commerce, it has been used as currency. The Roman legions were paid in salt. The word "salary" has its origin in the Roman salarium (salt money).

In modern times, common salt—sodium chloride as the chemist would say—has emerged as a basic industrial raw material : a predominant portion of its production in the world is consumed by industry. It is utilised in the production of heavy chemicals and is used extensively in soap, oil, dye-stuffs, leather, textile, paper, glass, ceramic, metallurgical and refrigeration industries. In its pure state, it is required by 62 major industries, including food and chemicals.

Due to the dominant role of salt in industry, its production and consumption, together with those of sulphuric acid and steel, are taken as index of a nation's prosperity. In 1953, the *per capita* salt consumption in India was 14 pounds as compared to the world average of about 40 pounds. In the same year, while the world's salt production was 56 million tons, that of India was 3.1 million tons.

In the past, the authorities considered the salt industry mainly as a source of revenue. While rigid rules were enforced for the collection of the duty, not much attention was paid to the quality of salt produced. Neither was the production sufficient for our needs.

The result was that to meet salt requirements India had to depend on annual imports to the extent of a few lakh tons every year till as late as 1950, this despite the 3,500 miles of coastline and other conditions favourable to salt production.

After independence, the Government's outlook on this industry underwent reorientation, and efforts were directed to so shape the industry that it may attain, within a short time, its proper status.

About 70 per cent of the salt produced in India is from the sea. The mother liquor left behind after the harvesting of sea salt is rich in salts of magnesium and potassium and also constitutes the only source for bromine.

Nearly 30 per cent of the total salt produced in the country is from a very ancient inland-lake at Sambhar in Rajasthan. The bittern of Sambhar Lake is rich in two valuable commercial chemicals *viz* sodium sulphate and sodium carbonate. The recovery of these from the mixture at Sambhar had presented several difficulties. Various experts and committees had been consulted by the Government of India to find a solution. The Institute's scientists have now provided a practical solution for this difficulty.

The exploitation of the Sambhar Lake bittern is faced with another difficulty caused by the presence of algae. The colour and the odour of the raw material have both been eliminated by a simple method worked out in the Institute thereby enabling the recovery of purer and clearer chemicals.

Cheap and rapid methods for analysis of salt samples have been evolved at the Institute.

Magnesium compounds are known to have innumerable uses in industry. Investigations carried out in the Institute have resulted in the formulation of methods for the production of (i) oxychloride cement flooring tiles having excellent appearance and qualities by the incorporation of fillers such as saw-dust, sand, soapstone, asbestos powder and inorganic paints; (ii) light basic magnesium carbonate of superfine quality of different grades needed for pharmaceutical, rubber, paper and other industries, and (iii) pharmaceutical magnesium preparations and epsom salt of different grades.

Attention had not been paid in the country earlier to some of salt's simpler uses where material of the highest purity is needed. The Institute has standardised conditions for the production of dairy salt and salts of the pharmaceutical standard quality and analytical reagent quality. Attention is also being paid to different qualities of salt needed for special nutrition needs, both for human beings and cattle.

The programme of research work in the Institute is drawn up in consultation with the manufacturers and consumers keeping in view the present needs and future requirements. It has a significant role to play in guiding salt industry to a brighter future and enabling it to make its contribution to the country's economic self-sufficiency and prosperity.

## *IN BRIEF*

According to a random sample survey, rats outnumber human beings six to one in India. There are 240 crores of these in our country consuming a lot of valuable food.

* * *

A remedy that will halt any decrease in the milk yield of cow and buffalo has been evolved after three years of research organized by the U. P. Government in co-ordination with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The remedy is an antibiotic combination for a disease known as mastitis, or inflamation of the udder, which causes a tremendous decrease in milk yield.

# *NO MORE DOWRIES*

DOWRY, ITS GIVING, taking or demanding, is proposed to be banned under the long-awaited Dowry Prohibition Bill introduced by the Law Minister, Shri A. K. Sen, in the Lok Sabha recently. This was in response to the "persistent demand" for such a legislation.

The measure, however, excludes customary wedding presents, including ornaments and clothes worth Rs. 2,000, from its purview "to make the law workable." It also excludes "bowar" or "mahar" in the case of Muslims.

Persons giving, taking or demanding dowry or abetting such an act shall be punishable with imprisonment up to six months or with a fine up to Rs. 5,000 or with both. Offences will be non-cognizable, bailable and non-compundable.

The 10-clause Bill, which will come into operation by a gazette notification and will not apply to Jammu and Kashmir State, provides that "any agreement for the giving, or taking of dowry shall be void." Where any dowry is received by any person other than the woman in connection with whose marriage it is given, that person "shall transfer it to the woman within one year of the date of the marriage or, if the woman is a minor, within one year after she is 18 years. Pending such transfer contravening the Act, he "shall hold it in trust for the benefit of the woman."

If any person fails to transfer any such property received by him within the time-limit, "he shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend up to six months or with a fine up to Rs 5,000 or with both; such punishment shall not absolve the person from his obligation to transfer the property."

Where the woman entitled to such property "dies before receiving it, the heirs of the woman shall be entitled to claim it from the person holding it for the time being." No courts inferior to that of a magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act. No court shall take cognizance of any such offence except when a complaint is made within one year from the date of the offence.

The statement of objects and reasons points out that "the question of prohibiting dowry had been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past and one of the methods by which this problem, which is essentially a social one, was sought to be tackled by conferment of improved property rights on woman by the Hindu Succession Act, 1956."

"It is, however, felt," says Shri Sen, "that a law which makes the practice punishable and at the same time ensures that any dowry, if given, thus ensures for the benefit of the wife, will go a long way in educating public opinion and in the eradication of this evil practice."

*In a newly settled village in Hirakud Project area farmer digging a drainage channel*

# NEW VILLAGE FOR OLD

NESTLING AT the foot of the picturesque Vindhya ranges in Orissa, Rampela, a neat, well-planned, though tiny, village of 250 homesteads, with a population of about 1,250, is one of the numerous villages, which are dotted on the banks of the man-made 290-sq-mile Hirakud reservoir.

With a name, whose origin is lost in antiquity, this village, shining as a new coin, has little similarity with the old, drab and dirty Rampela, which was submerged when the storage of waters of the mighty Mahanadi began behind the 3-mile long dam, flanked by 13 miles of dykes, two years ago.

The inhabitants of Rampela—old or new—remain, however, the same—but with a difference.

### HOMES WITH GARDENS

The bulk of the population in the new Rampela consists of artisans, mostly engaged in producing artistic metalware from brass and copper. Even a few goldsmiths who were in the old Rampela are there. And, of course, cultivators and fishermen. But Rampela's pride are—as before—its skilled craftsmen.

Among these people is Nitya, nearing 50, bronzed by the sun, and a picture of good health—as enduring as the brightly polished domestic metalware produced by him.

Nostalgically, almost sadly, Nitya talked about the old village, which has now disappeared under the Mahanadi waters. It had a thousand homesteads, he said, and a greater variety—squalor and cleanliness existing side by side.

Though Nitya hardly realised the manifold benefits of the Hirakud project, he admitted that he was content with his newly-found surroundings. For has he not, like others, a little homestead with its own kitchen garden, where vegetables and, perhaps, some gram and paddy thrive?

### FOOD & FUN

In the sunny April morning the Hirakud reservoir—a little distance away—was filled to capacity, presenting a magnificent spectacle around. And the youth crowding around Nitya unreservedly welcomed the new life.

Discarding the traditional scepticism of the old, they declared that the reborn Rampela was infinitely better. The tidy huts, with a sprinking of brick houses, excellent sanitation and drainage system, broad and straight streets, a sweet-water well and health and community centres.

More, the village collectively owns an impressive 50-ft high wooden structure, mounted on wheels, which is decorated and taken out in procession each year in June-July at the time of the famous car festival at Puri.

Further, the prosperity of Rampela is assuredly not

ephemeral. It rests on sound foundations. The metalware, jewellery and other products of its craftsmen are popular not only with the simple Oriya women but have also found a market outside the State.

Fertile plots of land are not far to seek, and fishermen have the vast reservoir to fish. There are both food and fun on a modest scale in the village.

### THE STORY

The story of Rampela is repeated in varying degrees in many a village which has sprung up on the extensive banks of the Hirakud reservoir. Most new villages are populated--as they should be—by those who had to be evacuated from the 240 villages submerged by the reservoir.

Helped by the Government in various ways, these pepole—farmers, craftsmen, traders and others—have again taken up the threads of their lives in cleaner, better surroundings.

Loans and subsidies are given to them by the Government for building new houses, while cultivators get surplus land, manure and irrigation waters at concessional rates. These people—at least the old—have not forgotten the villages which are no more, but they do not deny having found greater happiness in their new homes.

# MY STORY—ONION

**P. Balasubrahmanyan**
*B.D.O. Kurnool.*

I AM AN ancient personality known to human beings as a palatable and nutritious vegetable for the past several centuries. I am a quick grower, heavy yielder and my produce can be stored for considerable lengths of time. I am grown throughout India though Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh are my chief patrons. My produce is widely exported to Ceylon, Burma, Malaya etc.

Loamy soils of retentivity are the ideal ones for my culture. Avoid alkaline heavy clays. Please plough the land thoroughly. Apply 10 to 15 tons of farm yard manure as a basal dressing. Also I suggest application of 100 lbs. of Super-Phosphate before last ploughing. Twenty or twenty-five days after transplanting 80 to 100 lbs. of sulphate of ammonia is advocated.

Three to four pounds of seeds sown in four cents of nursery plot will suffice planting an acre. In ten days seeds germinate and the seedlings are ready for transplanting in a month. Spray the nursery once with B.H.C. and perenox as a preventive measure.

The field is laid into ridges and furrows 18″ apart and my seedlings are planted on both sides of the ridges 4″ apart. In my early period, I require copious irrigation (at least twice a week) though after a month, a weekly irrigation will suffice. Two hand weedings are essential.

When I am about 70 days old, my bulbs begin their formation. These are formed near the surface and are partly visible above the soil. Covering the exposed bulbs will interfere with their development and hence avoid this. When the bulbs mature, the crop turns lighter in colour. Leaves start yellowing. Their turgidity will be lost. At this stage if irrigated, the bulbs increase in weight but do not have keeping quality. The harvested plants are spread out in shade in thin layers for 3 or 4 days. The leafy stalks are cut and bulbs are spread out again. If the bulbs are to be kept over a week, they are kept stacked in trapezoidal heaps with pyramidal tops, like sorghum stacks. About 10,000 pounds per acre is a very normal yield. Rs 300 to Rs 500 per acre of net profit (in about 4 or 5 months) is very common to my client.

Thrips represent my principal enemy among insects. These suck up the sap and in bud infestations make the plants appear blighted. B.H.C. can be successfully used to control this insect. Leaf blight is the disease attacking my leaves and base of the sheaths. Spraying with perenox is a remedial measure.

I lack words to talk more. I am nutritive and remunerative.

# SANT TUKARAM

TUKARAM occupies a prominent place among the saints and sages of India. He was not only a saint but also a great poet. He was born in 1608 A.D. in a village named Dehu near Poona.

His father Bolhoba was a village grocer. Towards the end of his life he wanted the eldest son Savaji to take over the business. But Savaji was a person with a religious bent of mind and did not want to follow his father's footsteps. As a result the responsibility of running Bolhoba's shop and maintaining the family fell upon Tukaram, a boy of 13 years of age. Tukaram was honest but not intended for a life of business. Yet for several years he did well in business by working from morning till evening. He was not afraid of work and his honesty was well-known.

But a series of disasters that followed subsequently reduced Tukaram to poverty. A severe famine in 1629, during which his wife died crying for food, was the last in a succession of sorrows which led him to give up all business and worldly attachments. Once while sitting on the river bank with his younger brother, Kanhoba, he threw into the stream half of his business papers and handed over the remaining half to him. This marked the turning point towards a life of whole-time dedication to Vithoba (Krishna). During the day he would often sit on the top of a hill near Dehu and would return in the evening to the temple of Vithoba. His devotion and indomitable spirit won for him mastery over the mind and the senses.

The spirit of poetry came to him in a dream, commanding him to complete the unfinished task of his great predecessor Namadeva. In another dream he received his all-important *Guru-mantra* 'Ram-Krishna-Hari', the secret mystic formula which finally initiated him as a Hindu teacher.

**Shivaji and the Saint**

A contemporary of Shivaji, Tukaram was greatly respected by the Maratha ruler. On hearing the fame of Tukaram as a great poet and saint, Shivaji sent a messenger with a cavalry and an umbrella to bring him to the royal camp. But Tukaram politely returned the royal gift with an *abhanga* (lyric) which is famous in Marathi literature.

Shivaji on receipt of this letter was filled with a new admiration for Tukaram. He immediately left the camp, came to the place where Tukaram was having his *Kirtan* and prostrated himself before the saint. Later when Shivaji's continued absorption into his *Kirtanas* started interferring with the proper discharge of his kingly duties, Tukaram reminded him of his duties to the people and asked him to return to his kingdom.

Tukaram's life is rich with all kinds of experience, and his teachings are most impressive

# YOUNG PIONEERS

**H. P. RAMANA**

*Gram Sevak Stage I Block, Mandya*

OF ALL THE villages in my circle Kallahalli at the beginning worried me most. It is a fairly big village, close to Mandya town. Very few of the villagers possessed land ; most of them lived on wages. The nearness to the town had its evil effect on the villagers. They were mostly attracted to parks, theatres and restaurants where they wasted their time. Some of the village youth had secretly taken to gambling. The Panchayat was ineffective. But still there were many people in the village who were honest, but suffered for want of help and support.

The problems of the village were many and I thought of tackling them through the youth. I established contacts with few of them and tried to win their confidence. Once the confidence won, the sphere of contact was enlarged.

The next task was to make them meet on a common platform. Initial difficulties were there, but a cautious approach made them meet periodically and discuss the problems of the village. These discussions fired their imagination for community work. A regular Youth Club was formed. They elected their own leaders and office-bearers. Within 3 months the membership rose to 40. Each subscribed Re. 1 per month. By this time most of the youngmen had given up their bad habits and were keen to work for the village. They were itching for service and expected the Panchayat to come to their aid. But how can an ineffective Panchayat give them any help? It was my turn to act. With the help of the Block Staff and other officers, the Panchayat was brought round and a link with the Youth Club was established.

The active and keen youngmen needed some guidance and a programme for action. Accordingly the programme of agricultural production and improvement of sanitation was put before them which was accepted without much hesitation.

They started with a sanitation drive, which meant many things—cleaning of roads and drains, construction of a new drain nearly 700 ft. long, mud-plastering of houses (both interior and exterior), filling up of a number of big ditches, construction of a new road and digging of 2 new wells for the supply of drinking water. The enthusiasm of the youth was infectious. Other villagers readily joined with them and the jobs were completed in no time.

The next item of work was individual effort. Each member of the club, in addition to participating in the common programme, had to do something for himself and that too according to his aptitude and condition. As such each one of them had to do improved method of cultivation, Kitchen gardening, poultry farming etc. Today just by the road side, you see, a number of fruit cultivation plots, farm houses, poultry farms, flower beds etc. owned by the members. Industry is no exception. One member has started manufacturing sanitary equipment.

Kallahalli has also a four-roomed school building built by the villagers. A nursery school is being run by them with the help of the Government and some private individuals.

Much has been done in the village, but much more remains to be done. The tasks ahead are to increase the membership of the Club, erect a building for the Community Recreation Centre, make all agricultural families members of the Co-operative Society.

Today, when I look back at Kallahalli, a sense of pride and satisfaction overwhelms me.

# STEPS TO MEET THE FOOD CRISIS

THE REPORT of the 14-man Ford Foundation Team on agricultural production contains major findings and proposals on key aspects of India's food crisis. The Team, consisting of 14 specialists with experience in helping the U.S. reach a high point of agricultural development, came to India in January, at the invitation of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and of the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation, to help draw up a series of proposals on how India could meet its food production crisis. The Team's 260-page report, entitled "India's Food Crisis and Steps to Meet It", analyses India's effort to meet the food crisis :

*The need for Stabilization of Farm Prices* : Unless the cultivator is assured of a floor price for his foodgrains, he will be unwilling to invest in fertilizer, better implements, improved seed and other expenses necessary to increase production.

Recommended price incentives for increased production are :

(*a*) A guaranteed minimum price announced in advance of the planting season.

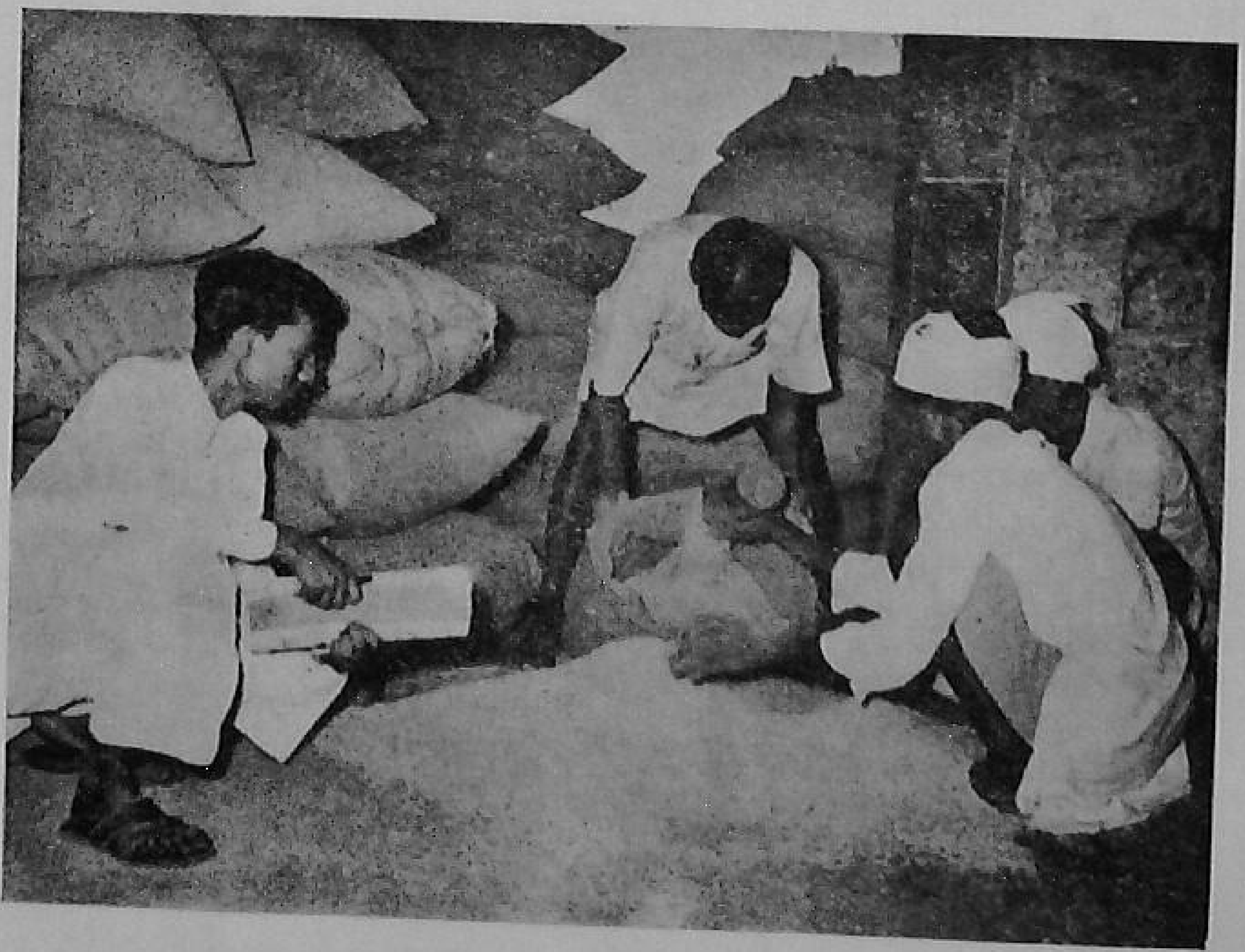
(*b*) A market within bullock-cart distance that will pay the guaranteed price when the cultivator has to sell.

*A Public Works Programme for Increasing Food Production and Village Employment* : The unemployed and under-employed in the villages represent a waste of resources that should be used to produce more food. Moreover, about 45 million of the 80 million increase in population will be rural people. The Team recommends a public works programme for projects requiring primarily hand labour, such as contour bunding, land levelling, surface drainage, irrigation wells and tanks. Such work will contribute directly to increasing food production, provide income for needy people, and will not be inflationary.

*Priorities for Chemical Fertilizers* : Fuller use of manures, composts, and green manures is commended. But at the very best these can substitute for only a small fraction of the chemical fertilizers needed to meet the Third Plan food targets. Only with more abundant chemical fertilizers will benefits from irrigation, bunding, improved seeds, and other facilities be realized.

*Intensified Irrigation and Drainage Programmes* : India is using only a small portion of its potential water supply, which is one of the largest in the world. India now gets only one-fifth to one-fourth ton increase in crop yields on irrigated lands as compared to non-irrigated lands. Moreover, only about 12% of irrigated acreage grows more than one irrigated crop per year. India cannot afford this waste of resources. Better water management is needed.

The Team believes that India can make greater and



*A wheat golla in a block village.*

more immediate gains in food production by intensifying expenditure of time and effort on water management than by constructing large scale irrigation projects which take years to develop. The Team recommends that the Third Plan allocate substantial funds for technical assistance to aid cultivators in making better use of available water. Provision must also be made for a more comprehensive approach with coordination of all relevant departments. The Team also recommends that more emphasis be placed on irrigation projects which will yield rapid returns in food production, such as tube wells and shallow masonry wells.

*Selection of certain crops and certain areas for more intensive efforts*: There are tremendous physical potentialities for increasing production per acre if they can be achieved. There are no inherent soil, climatic or other physical reasons for the present low yields.

But there are no blanket proposals that can be generally applied to reach the Third Plan target. The Team recommends that those selected crops, and those selected areas in each State should be chosen which have the greatest increase potentialities.

Efforts to stimulate food production should be directed more heavily to rice and wheat, which now make up 62% of total food crops. With hybrid maize, India can in 5 to 7 years make more progress in increasing yields than the U.S.A. made in 20 years.

More effort should be concentrated on the most promising areas for wheat and rice production, *i.e.*, those which have had the most rapid rate of increase in the recent past, and which have also the highest potential for rapid increases in the years immediately ahead. For rice. there are 25 important growing districts ; for wheat, there are selected districts in the Punjab, U.P. and Bihar.

These areas will, the Team believes, increase India's food production more rapidly than others, if given allocation of fertilizers in combination with other improved practices, such as plant protection measures, improved seeds, and water for irrigation. Attention to other areas should not be reduced. But, in the national interest. the Team believes that increased effort should be immediately directed to the most responsive areas.

*Security of land tenure and land consolidation*: Assurance of stability of tenure can contribute substantially to food production. The Team's recommendation is that land ceilings and other land reforms should be settled as quickly as possible, and stay settled for the Third Plan. Firm plans should be developed immediately to schedule the completion of consolidation of fragmented holdings, village by village, as soon as possible. Improved coordination must be provided. In some Indian villages consolidation has been carried out in ways to increase production greatly; in others it has not, because of inadequate coordination with these responsible for planning water control structures and boundaries of holdings.

*Immediate large scale credit through Cooperatives*: The present marketing, supply and credit services are major deterrents to increasing food production. 85 per cent of credit is now supplied by money lenders and other individuals. Most marketable grains are sold to local traders at harvest time at depressed prices. Strong cooperatives can break these bonds.

To help cooperatives do so effectively, the Team's major recommendations are that (1) Government must be prepared to provide loans and to assist in developing capable management ; and (2) standard of credit-worthiness must be redefined to encourage production loans on the basis of expected crop yields and repayment ability, instead of land security.

*Progressive reduction of cattle numbers*: The excessive animal population competes with people for the products of the land. The Team, recognizes the limitations imposed by beliefs concerning cattle slaughter. Other ways of dealing with the problems are possible.

The Team recommends that legislation be considered

(*Continued on page* 23)

*Shri Rattan Singh, a leading member of Jugiana's Garden Colony Co-operative Society and one of the pilots of the Society's hybrid maize seed project, sits proudly with some of the members of his family on a heap of the high quality new maize they have grown.*

# CO-OPERATIVE MAIZE

SIX MILES to the south of the sprawling industrial town of Ludhiana in Punjab is Jugiana, a small village which recently made agricultural history by raising for the first time in India as a cooperative enterprise a new variety of hybrid maize seed. The seed, which is known as "Illinois 1656", on account of its American origin, not only doubles and, in certain special cases, trebles the yield per acre, but also gives bigger and richer grain.

Since the first seed crop was raised in February this year on a specially demarcated 46-acre farm, almost all the 1,600 maunds of it have been bought up by the State Government for distribution through Block Development agencies to farmers in time for the Kharif sowing season which begins this month.

Maize is one of the most important Kharif crops of Punjab, particularly in the submontane districts of Jullundur, Amritsar and Ludhiana. But, considering the area under this crop—more than 11.66 lakh acres in Punjab alone—the yield has been rather low: about 15 maunds per acre.

This led to a systematic search on the part of the State Agriculture Department for an improved variety of maize seed, which could raise the total yield without bringing more area under this crop. A number of varieties, almost all of them hybrid, were developed as a result of experiments conducted at Jullundur and Chandigarh. At the same time, an intensive campaign conducted by the Community Development people in Punjab villages led to the creation of a demand for the new variety of maize seed, which the Government's own seed farms could hardly cope with. Moreover, cultivation of high quality hybrid seed being a very complicated and at times even a risky process, private enterprise in this field called for a great deal of resourcefulness and initiative.

It was just this measure of resourcefulness and initiative which enabled the Garden Colony Cooperative Society of Jugiana to embark on what in the beginning seemed a rather hazardous venture but, later on, turned out to be one of the finest examples of cooperative endeavour in the field of agricultural development.

### A SELF-MADE COLONY

What is the secret behind Jugiana Garden Colony's remarkable achievement? For one thing, it is small. Its size gives it a certain compactness

*High quality new maize seed being distributed to a farmer in a village near Ambala.*

and a quality which can only be described as agility. Then, the Colony is utterly self-made, literally raised from dust in a short period of ten years.

Interviewing some of the elders of the Colony was an exciting experience. Evidently, a lot of pain and pioneering effort have gone into building the Colony up from what it was ten years ago—a derelict village surrounded by acres and acres of dusty, desolate land—into a happy, healthy community of farmers, as it is today.

Another factor which accounts for Jugiana Garden Colony's extraordinary achievement is the high degree of education and social awareness among its people. This leaves an impression on everything that Jugiana does. Its Cooperative Society is one of the oldest to be formed in the district. Shri Mohan Singh, President of the Society and Shri Rattan Singh, its Secretary, are both widely travelled, well-informed individuals commanding respect not because of the position they hold but because of their knowledge of farming and their understanding of the people they work with. Two young men of the village have been to the United States under the Young Farmers' Exchange Programme.

Meeting one of these young men, 24-year old Nachchatter Singh, was enough to get a feel of the force that informs Jugiana's many-sided activity. Nachchatter Singh spoke about the model poultry farm which he and some of his young friends were running in Jugiana; the workshop for repairing tractors and other agricultural machines which they maintained on behalf of Jugiana's Cooperative Society, and about the 18-acre piece of land which the young farmers had taken over for trying out the latest techniques in farming.

### CAREFUL PLANNING

Nachchatter Singh also talked excitedly about Jugiana's hybrid maize seed project. The idea was first mooted early in 1958 by Shri Rattan Singh. He discussed this idea with some of the leading members of the Colony's Co-operative Society, who received the idea with enthusiasm. Encouragement also came from the Agriculture Department of the Punjab Government who were willing to share their experience in this field. Then followed months of careful planning. Nothing was left to chance. In June, the seeds were sown in a carefully demarcated piece of land and the whole programme was carried out with the alertness and precision of a military operation.

This year also, in June, the Jugiana Cooperative Society is planning to repeat the last year's performance. Only, this time, thanks to the experience already acquired, they hope to reap a richer harvest.

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## STEPS TO MEET THE FOOD CRISIS

(*Continued from page* 21)

providing for: (1) a tax policy which makes maintenance of useless cattle a burden on their owners (tax receipts could go to villages for improvements); (2) confinement of all bulls and mandatory castration of all bulls not kept for breeding; (3) measures to control open grazing; (4) establishment of dessicating plants to process fallen animals, with incentive payments to owners who bring in fallen cattle.

*The role of Community Development and the Technical Ministries*: Community Development and all technical agencies must be geared to mobilization and strengthening of village leaders and organizations, and effective channelling to village people of all information and help necessary to increase food output. The Team, believes therefore, that all Ministries concerned with any aspect or programme relevant to food production must give top priority to food production now and for the period of the Third Plan.

# U.P. COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTIONS

THE COMMITTEE set up by the Uttar Pradesh Government to evaluate the working of the Community Development programme in the State has suggested that the programme should be reshaped to further the overall objective of socialistic transformation.

The new pattern should fall under four categories, educational, economic, cultural and institutional, with an ideological bias permeating all these activities. The programme should be initiated under the broad leadership of gram panchayats and should aim at all-sided development.

The committee, which was headed by Shri Govind Sahai, MLA, sought to assess the part played by the CD programme to bring about a socio-economic change in the village life. It also explored the desirability to assign new priorities in the programme to make it not only more fruitful but also more acceptable to the people.

The committee says that in the expansion of certain agricultural techniques, work programmes and, to some extent, health schemes in the countryside, the NES has done useful work by channelling people's energy for their implementation and by providing a new administrative machinery with a welfare bias.

Assessed against the background of the bigger objectives as enunciated by the Planning Commission and the National Development Council, however, very little progress has been made through these institutions in social and economic transformation and all-sided village development, change in the people's mental attitude towards progress and social cohesion.

According to the committee, the causes of this slow progress are (1) The programme and the objectives moved on parallel lines and were governed by a different set of condition; (2) the main emphasis remained on agriculture and work programmes and fulfilment of physical targets; (3) limitations of rules and procedures; (4) lack of emphasis on objective, continuity of programme, lack of constant mental feeding, disorganized nature of drives, etc.

The committee has suggested simultaneous emphasis on making people conscious of every programme, providing activities for all age-groups and every class of people and linking schooling with production. It has also urged the need to reorient administrative machinery and make the training programmes more comprehensive.

It has suggested the merger of the posts of the village-level worker and the panchayat secretary, greater integration and pooling at the district level and a similar structure at the State level. A separate Ministry for Community Projects and a greater association of the members of the Government with the projects has also been recommended.

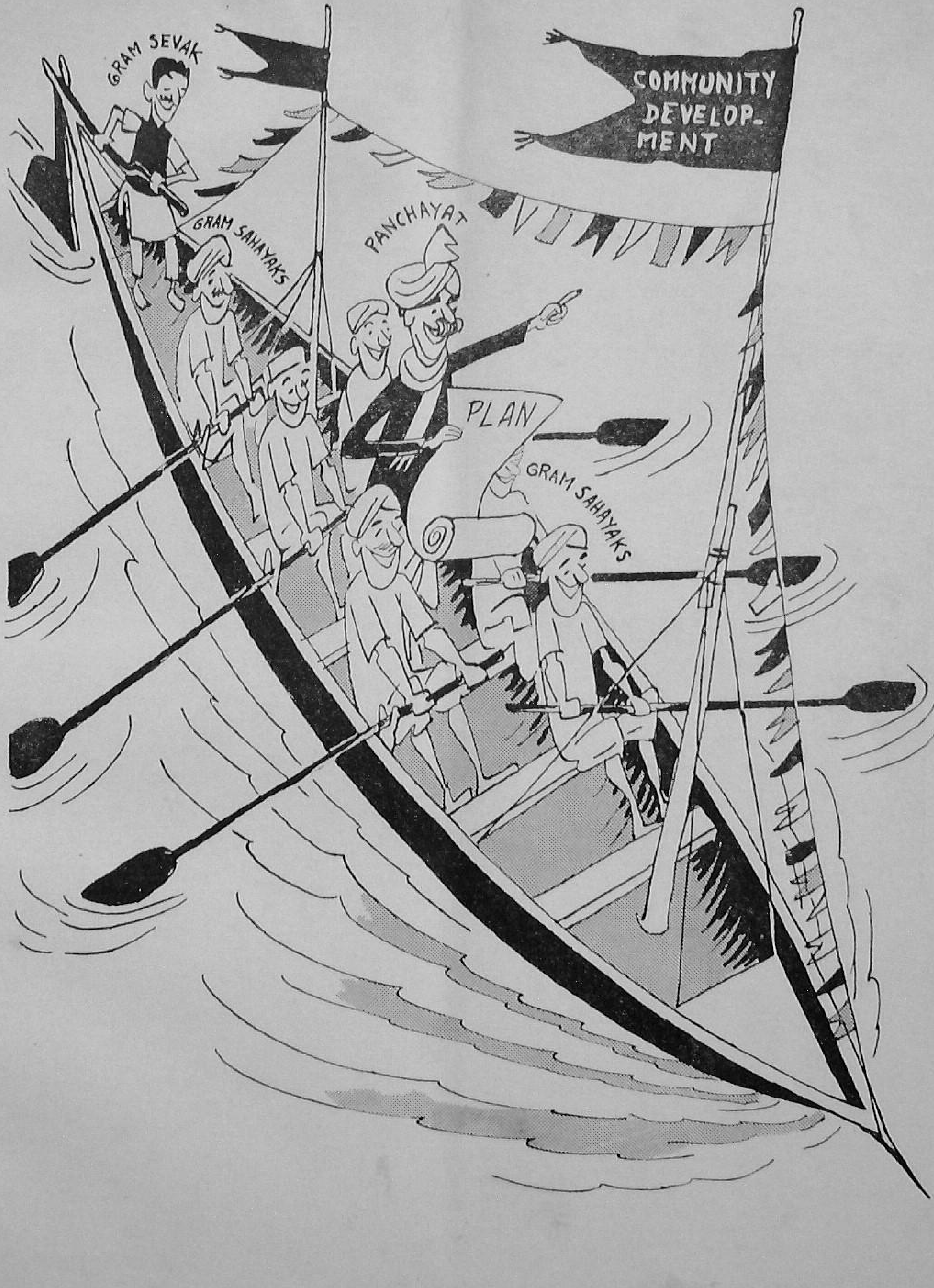
The committee says the development departments should work under the broad guidance of the Development Commissioner, who should coordinate their working.

The committee is satisfied that generally public co-operation has come forth to the extent the programme offered opportunity. It has, however, observed that it is now decreasing and people have started looking to the Government for all and every kind of help.

The committee has expressed satisfaction about the working of the panchayats but has pointed out the many difficulties hampering their free functioning.

The committee has suggested that progress should be measured in terms of material benefits, subjective reaction of the people, and accumulative effect of the programme on the people.

# THE SHIP OF STATE



*After the day's catch*

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